

# CARI CAPTURES

INDONESIA HAS US\$10 BILLION WORTH OF OIL AND GAS AT RISK

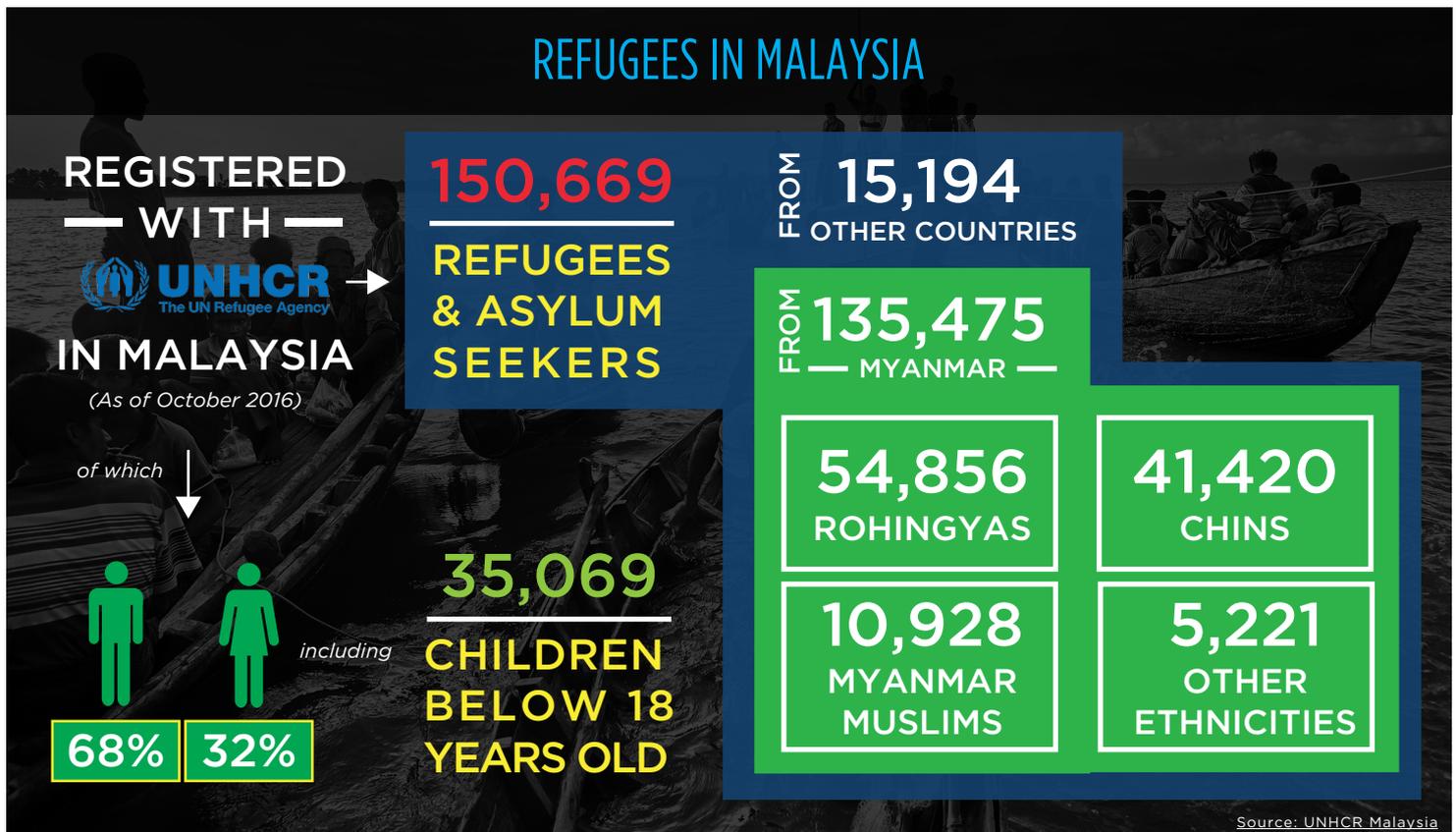
THAILAND VOWS ASEAN COMMON FISHING POLICY

MYANMAR'S AUNG SAN SUU KYI TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SINGAPORE

01 MYANMAR | MALAYSIA

## MALYSIAN PRIME MINISTER PROTESTS MYANMAR'S ROHINGYA CRISIS

### REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA



**Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak called for foreign intervention to stop the "genocide" of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar on 4 December, as he joined thousands of Rohingya protesters in Kuala Lumpur. The UN has warned the Myanmar government that the new government's reputation is at stake.**

- ▶ Malaysia has been increasingly critical of Myanmar's handling of violence and allegations of state abuses in northern Rakhine state and Najib has called on the United Nations, the International Criminal Court and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation to intervene
- ▶ Najib's attendance at the protest of 10,000 people – mostly Rohingya, came despite warnings from Myanmar that Malaysia risked violating the ASEAN principle of non-interference in other members' internal affairs
- ▶ Najib responded saying that ASEAN members had pledged in its charter to uphold basic human rights and he also

accused Aung San Suu Kyi of inaction, revealing that she had declared the Rohingya issue off-limits during bilateral discussions

- ▶ Adama Dieng, the UN's special adviser on the prevention of genocide, has warned that the reputation of Aung San Suu Kyi's government is at stake as international concern on how the government is dealing with violence
- ▶ Aung San Suu Kyi has responded to the criticism and accusations, saying she wants to improve the situation but called for understanding from the international community as the issue is a highly sensitive and delicate matter
- ▶ "...I'm not saying there are no difficulties, but it helps if people recognise the difficulty and are more focused on resolving these difficulties rather than exaggerating them so that everything seems worse than it really is," she said

[Reuters \(4 December 2016\)](#)

[Channel News Asia \(2 December 2016\)](#)

[Reuters \(29 November 2016\)](#)

## SOUTHEAST ASIA CURRENCY SLIDE INFLATES US\$20 BILLION DEBT BILL

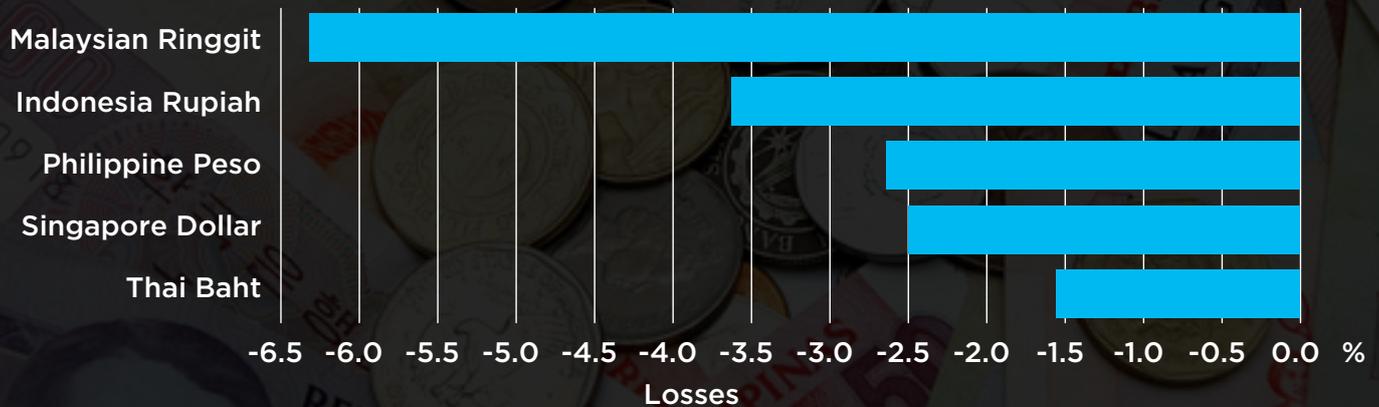
**ASEAN countries are bracing for rising debt bills as the region's currencies are at their weakest in a decade. The amount that the area's companies, banks and governments must repay on dollar-denominated bonds will rise 8 percent next year.**

- ▶ The currency slide hasn't been as bad as in other emerging markets because ASEAN is more insulated now after the region expanded its local debt markets following the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, but borrowers must repay 8% more on dollar bonds next year to US\$19.7 billion

- ▶ The development is a reminder of the dangers of overseas borrowing that economists Barry Eichengreen and Ricardo Hausmann called "original sin" following the 1997 crisis
- ▶ "Those that will be affected are domestically-based companies with minimal exports and companies with a high percentage of foreign currency debt," said Raymond Chia, head of credit research for Asia ex-Japan at Schroder Investment Management Ltd. in Singapore. Many companies are vulnerable as the rupiah, peso and ringgit all weaken, he said.

Bloomberg (28 November 2016)

## ASEAN CURRENCIES WEAKENED IN NOVEMBER AFTER US ELECTION



Source: Bloomberg

## INDONESIA HAS US\$10 BILLION WORTH OF OIL AND GAS AT RISK

**Due to the lack of clarity on extensions and the scale of production at risk, some US\$10 billion worth of potential upstream oil and gas output is at risk in Indonesia as 35 production-sharing contracts (PSCs) will expire in the next decade.**

- ▶ The 35 expiring PSCs make up over 1 million barrels of oil equivalent per day of output, a large part of Indonesia's daily consumption of around 1.6 million barrels
- ▶ Some 27 PSCs are due to expire over the next five years, representing 30% of Indonesia's total production, including France's Total and Japan's Inpex, as well as US companies Chevron and ExxonMobil
- ▶ The future of PSCs remains unclear under a new oil and gas law being drafted by the government creating significant uncertainty for investors
- ▶ In an effort to boost its domestic output, Indonesian NOC Pertamina is targeting many of the expiring legacy production contracts, largely operated by international oil companies (IOCs), because they will be the cheapest barrels the company will ever produce and the easiest to operate

Forbers (28 November 2016)

## THAILAND VOWS ASEAN COMMON FISHING POLICY

**Thailand has vowed to work for the region as a whole in taking the lead in the formation of an ASEAN common fisheries policy to create sustainable development in marine resources throughout the region, solve the problem of illegal fishing, and promote sustainable fishery management.**

- ▶ Thailand's Agriculture Minister Chatchai Sarikulya made the vow during the two-day "Asia Regional Conference on Building Ocean Health: Sharing experience to move towards sustainable fisheries management" in Seoul, that ended on 30 November
- ▶ "The Asean community, as a major food and marine producer sharing common waters, should manage the region's marine resources with common goals and directions, with our eyes on long-term sustainability of the regional marine resources - in particular, the fishery sector. After collaboration, a clear and tangible outcome of Asean marine sustainability should be seen within the year 2019," the minister said
- ▶ Thailand will host the "Asean Ministers' Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry" next March, and a seminar in July, at which policy-makers, government officers, practitioners and experts from all over the world can exchange experiences
- ▶ After these two gatherings, "everyone should move forward together without leaving anyone or any sector behind", Chatchai told the conference, adding that the region could also join forces with South Korea, China and Japan under Asean+3 to promote cooperation in sustainable fishery for the whole region

The Nation (30 November 2016)

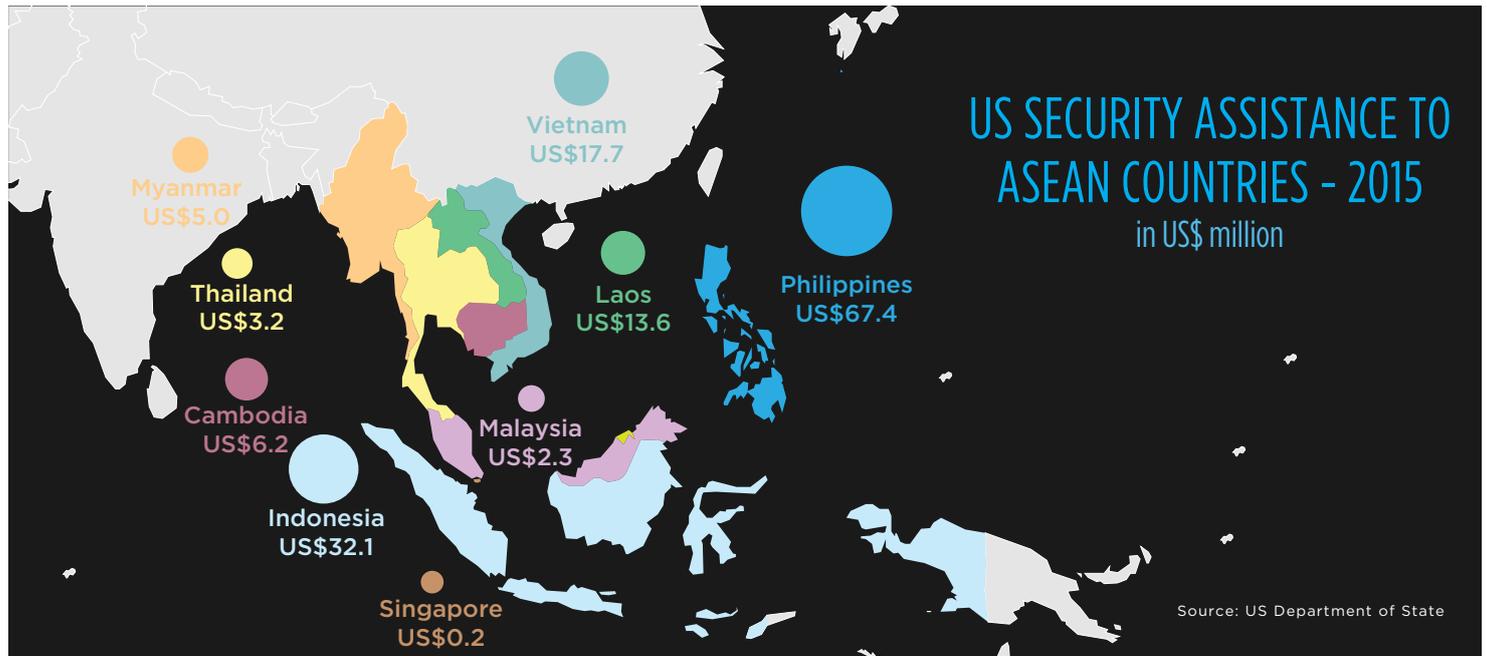
## US SHIFTS MILLIONS OF DOLLARS AWAY FROM PHILIPPINES DRUG CRACKDOWN

**Of the US\$5 million that had been intended for Philippines law enforcement efforts, the United States in early September shifted US\$4.5 million into maritime law enforcement and another US\$500,000 to human rights and internal reform efforts.**

- ▶ The move comes as part of the Obama administration and human rights groups' criticism of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs, which has seen more than 2,500 people killed since 30 June this year

- ▶ About three-quarters of the killings took place in police counter-narcotics operations and the rest is believed to be the victims of vigilantes or drug lords eliminating rivals or possible snitches
- ▶ The US has also halted the planned sale of 26,000 assault rifles to the Philippines' national police
- ▶ In recent years, the United States has sent the Philippines hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid and military and development assistance, making it the third-largest Asian recipient of US military aid after Afghanistan and Pakistan

[Bangkok Post \(21 November 2016\)](#)



## MYANMAR'S AUNG SAN SUU KYI TO MAKE OFFICIAL VISIT TO SINGAPORE

**Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi made an official visit to Singapore from 30 November to 2 December, at the invitation of Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong who hosted an official welcome ceremony and a dinner for her at the Istana.**

- ▶ Suu Kyi also met with Singapore's Acting President J Y Pillay, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, and Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan
- ▶ During her visit, Suu Kyi made a remark suggesting Myanmar could overtake Singapore economically in the next 20 years, which is an ironic comment since the late Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew made the same remark in 1965 when he expressed his desire to catch up economically with Burma within 20 years
- ▶ In 2015, Myanmar was Singapore's 28th largest trading partner, with total trade at US\$700 million, while for Myanmar, Singapore was its third largest trading partner after China and Thailand
- ▶ As of end-October this year, Singapore was the second largest investor in Myanmar with cumulative investment at US\$15.6 billion, after China US\$18.5 billion

[Channel News Asia \(29 November 2016\)](#)

[The Irrawaddy \(2 December 2016\)](#)

## THAILAND'S PARLIAMENT NAMES NEW KING IN FORMAL PROCLAMATION

**Thailand's parliament named Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn as the new king on 29 November, completing a formal step for the heir to take the throne following the death of his father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who died at the age of 88 on 13 October this year.**

- ▶ Following a 1924 law on succession, the cabinet submitted Vajiralongkorn's name to the National Assembly after a brief meeting, where members formally acknowledged him as the new monarch
- ▶ Vajiralongkorn, Bhumibol's second child and only son, was designated to be the king's successor in 1972
- ▶ The love life of the now 64-year-old Vajiralongkorn has often been the source of gossip, as he has seven children with his three ex-wives
- ▶ The exact date of the coronation is unknown and will happen only after the cremation of King Bhumibol, which may take place a year or more after his death,

[The Jakarta Post \(29 November 2016\)](#)

## POLITICS

▶ Myanmar joined several ASEAN nations and China in Bangkok on 30 November in a joint commitment to strengthen community-based health services for drug-users in the region. The meeting, organised by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), follows a similar pledge by the group of countries last year to put more focus on treatment services rather than punitive measures for certain drug users. [Myanmar Times \(1 December 2016\)](#)

▶ Myanmar's Ministry of Education has announced that steps are underway to reform the country's National Education Law in accordance with students' concerns. Student unions in the country say however that the committee tasked with revising the law has yet to directly contact unions or students for input. It was widely hoped that the NLD would overhaul the system and allow for a more decentralised model. [Myanmar Times \(5 December 2016\)](#)

## ECONOMY

▶ Thousands of off-grid projects are being rolled out across Myanmar as a part of a huge government-led scheme to bring electricity to the entire country by 2030. The burgeoning solar-power industry is looking to develop off-grid solutions and recent examples include a solar-powered irrigation system for rice farmers near Patheingyi and solar mini-grids in 11 villages in the remote provinces of Shan and Chin. [The Guardian \(2 December 2016\)](#)

▶ Speaking in parliament on 1 December, U Aung Thu, Union minister for agriculture, livestock and irrigation, acknowledged that state funding are not robust enough to finance all the infrastructure that the country needs, and suggested that some kind of "sharing plan" with the public was needed. He also suggested lawmakers could implement a similar system in their respective constituencies in order to finance works and maintenance. [Myanmar Times \(5 December 2016\)](#)

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS

▶ China has offered Myanmar to work together to stabilize their shared border, in the wake of a series of attacks by ethnic armed groups on Myanmar security forces and thousands of people crossing into China to escape the violence. China is worried about the risk of violence in northern Myanmar spilling onto its side of the border, as it did last year, when five Chinese people were killed. [Reuters \(30 November 2016\)](#)

## PHILIPPINES UNVEILS NEW INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

**The Philippines' Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) revealed on 28 November the government's new industrial strategy that focuses on industries where the Philippines has existing and potential comparative advantage.**

- ▶ Speaking at the Manufacturing Summit 2016, DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez said the strategy aims to generate employment and promote entrepreneurship
- ▶ The strategy's top five industry priorities include manufacturing, agribusiness, information technology-business process management (IT-BPM), tourism, and infrastructure and logistics
- ▶ Citing the fact that the Philippines is the fastest growing economy in Asia with a 7.1% recorded growth in the third quarter of 2016, Lopez said that the Philippines outpaced other countries like China (6.7%) and Vietnam (6.4%)
- ▶ Lopez called on stakeholders to take advantage of the huge export market created by the ASEAN Economic Community, as well as the potentials with the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

[The Manila Times \(29 November 2016\)](#)

## SINGAPORE TOPS GLOBAL EDUCATION RANKINGS

**Singaporean primary and secondary pupils scored the highest in an international education tests in maths and science, and the rest of the top places in these rankings were dominated by East Asian countries.**

- ▶ The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), published every four years, is based on tests taken by more than 600,000 students, aged 9-10 and 13-14 in 57 countries
- ▶ Despite Singapore's international success in tests, the Ministry of Education in Singapore recently produced an advert with a message that education is more than about getting high grades, in response to concerns about too much pressure on Singapore's youth
- ▶ "The most important common factor to success was the quality and status of teaching", said TIMSS director Michael Martin, "and Singapore's achievement reflected that it had made education a priority"
- ▶ Looking at the long-term trend of over 20 years of testing, it is evident that the class sizes are getting smaller, although there is no apparent link between class sizes and level of achievement

[BBC News \(29 November 2016\)](#)

